

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said molecule that binds specifically to HCV antigen does not bind the peptide that binds specifically to anti-HCV antibodies.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said HCV antigen is HCV core antigen.

11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said molecule that binds specifically to HCV antigen is anti-HCV core antibody.

12. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said molecule that binds specifically to HCV antigen is an antibody recognizing and binding to a region from position 100 to position 130 of an HCV polypeptide, or wherein said peptide that binds specifically to anti-HCV antibodies is a polypeptide having a sequence from position 1 to position 42 of the HCV polypeptide.

13. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said sample is contacted with said molecule and said peptide in the presence of one or more detergents with one or more alkyl chains of at least 10 carbon atoms and one or more secondary to quaternary amines, or one or more non-ionic surfactants or both.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said detergent alkyl chain and secondary to quaternary amine is a surfactant with 12 to 16 carbon atoms and a tertiary or quaternary amine.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said tertiary or quaternary amine detergent is dodecyl-N-sarcosinic acid, a cetyl or dodecyl trimethylammonium salt, 3-(dodecyldimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonic acid, a dodecylpyrimidium salt or decanoyl-N-methylglucamide.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-ionic surfactant has a hydrophilic lipophilic balance of 12 to 14.

17. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-ionic surfactant is polyoxyethylene isoocetylphenyl ether or polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether.